

FIELD NOTES

PHOTOGRAPHING A KILDEER

The extreme wariness of the Kildeer about its eggs is well known and many an account has been written of the tricks employed by the would-be nest finder to remain in the premises in



order to watch the owner settle upon her real nest and eggs. Before the April snows had entirely left the ground, Mr. Howard T. Middleton happened upon the nest shown in the above picture and laid plans to secure a series of pictures of the bird at her nest. The field was being ploughed at the time and a spadeful of turf, containing the nest, was shifted a few feet to freshly ploughed soil. By means of light cord and small pulleys a contrivance was rigged up by which the parent would snap the shutter when she settled upon her eggs. The feature of this mechanism was a small "snap" mouse trap which the bird could spring with a light pressure on the cord and which in turn exerted a strong pull on the shutter. Through the courtesy of Kodakery we are enabled to reproduce one of the series of five pictures printed in its August number.

A. F. G.

A WHITE COWBIRD

(*Molothrus ater ater*)

On April 15, 1921, Mrs. A. J. Williams of Norman, Oklahoma, called me up, saying there was a "white Cow-blackbird" near her house. On going over there I saw it among a large flock of ordinary Cowbirds and watched it for twenty minutes through field glasses, seeing it in various positions and being able to approach it closely. One foot seemed to be crippled so that it did not walk, but had to hop on the other foot. Its feathers looked somewhat ruffled. Above it appeared to be pure white; but underneath, its